

Scientific Thinkers at Innis Elementary School



Purpose

The Scientific Thinkers Program is a partnership between the Center for Emergent Materials: an NSF MRSEC (Materials Research Science and Engineering Center) at Ohio State and Innis Elementary School in the Columbus City school district. Our motto is “Meet a scientist, Be a scientist, Think like a scientist” and our mission is to motivate the next generation of scientific thinkers, engaging students from diverse backgrounds to enhance STEM fields.

We accomplish a three-pronged benefit: confidence building in the elementary students, improvement of communication skills for graduate and undergraduate volunteer scientists, and inspiration and growth through new hands on activities for elementary school teachers.

Impact

During biweekly visits, volunteers lead hands-on activities with direct engagement of elementary students. Students enjoy meeting a scientist and learning to think like a scientist.

Science Day, a school wide-teacher inspired event, engages students in various hands-on laboratories including: basic chemical reactions, cleaning an oil spill, liquid nitrogen demonstrations, Van der Graff generator, and sound activities.

In addition to interacting with the students, we also involve their parents through an annual event called Math and Science Night, where parents bring their children to an evening session and interact with OSU volunteers through hands on math and science activities.

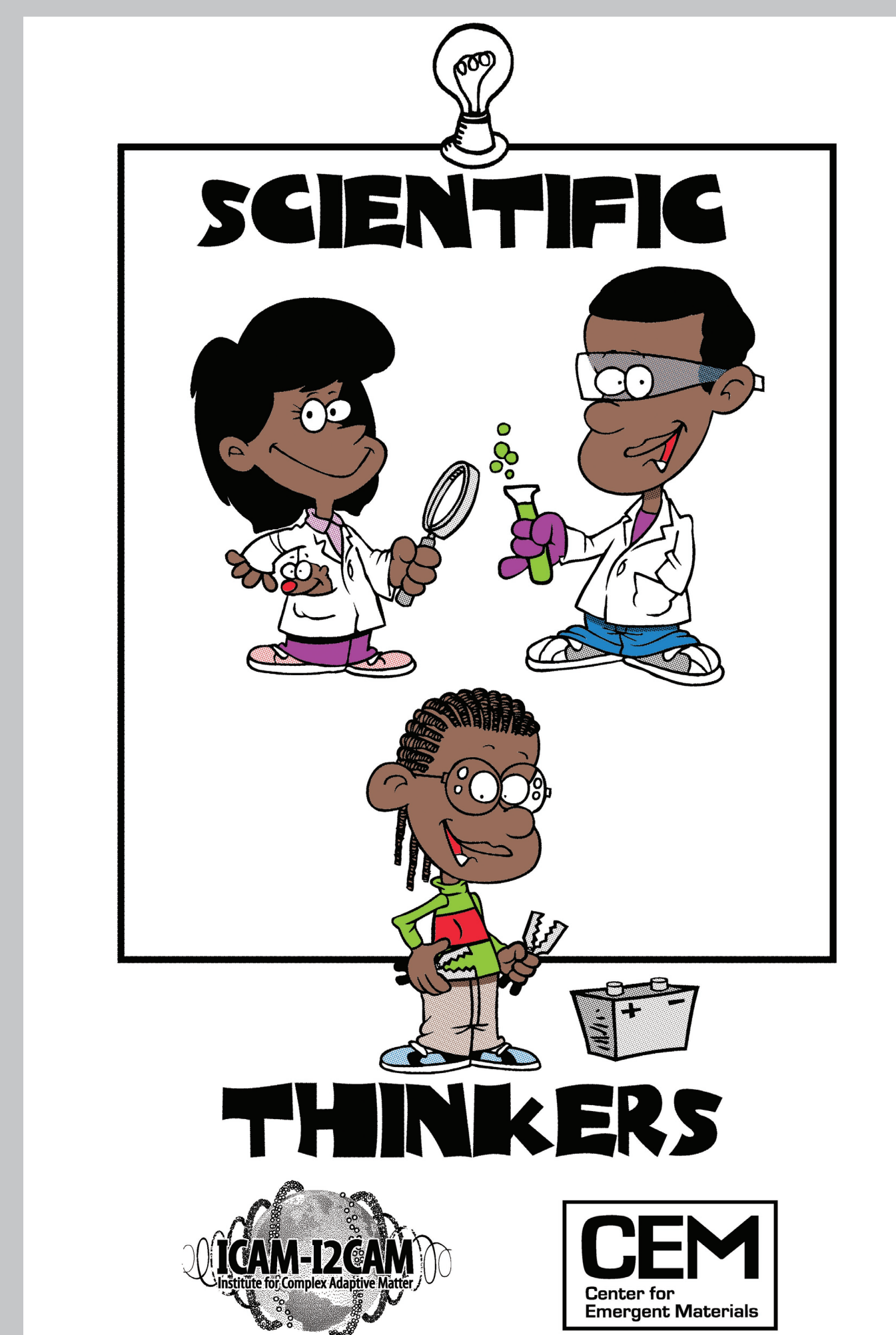


Ohio State Colleges/Units Involved

Department of Physics
Center for Emergent Materials
College of Arts and Sciences

Community Partners Involved

Innis Elementary School



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